

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 245—Psalms 84-85)

Introduction: The songs of Asaph are followed in the Psalter by a collection of song-poems by the sons of Korah. Both of these psalms are beautiful in sentiment and reveal a deep underlying love for God and hope in God in their expressions.

Lesson aim: To show the joy of knowing God and living in His presence.

A psalm expressing longing for the blessing of God's presence—Psalm 84:1-12

(It is possible that this psalm was written by a Korahite who joined David during his period of exile from Jerusalem during the rebellion of Absalom.)

1. What truth underlies the psalmist's devotion as expressed in this psalm? (v. 1)
2. *Perhaps the psalmist wrote these words from the perspective of one separated from the house of God.* For what did the psalmist long or yearn? (v. 2)
3. What creatures did the psalmist mention that lived in God's presence (as it were)? (v. 3) What truth did the psalmist mention in the first beatitude of this psalm? (v. 4)
4. *In the second verse the psalmist appears to imagine a band of pilgrims making their way toward the house of God.* What truth did he make known in the second beatitude? (v. 5)
5. Faith enables the pilgrim to turn the arid roads he travels into what? (v. 6) What falls upon those who travel this road?
6. Do these who journey toward the house of God get weaker and weaker as they proceed? (v. 7) Do they quit from discouragement?
7. What prayer did the psalmist offer to God? (v. 8-9) Why does he offer this prayer? (v. 10)
8. Why did the psalmist want to be in the presence of the Lord? (v. 11)

9. Consequently, what truth is made know in the third beatitude? (v. 12)

**A psalm urging God to renew His favor toward His people—
Psalm 85:1-13**

(The words of v. 1-4 lend themselves to the idea that this psalm was written by a Korahite of the post-exilic period who sought the blessings of God in a time of distress).

1. What things did the psalmist indicate that God had done in the past? (v. 1-3)
2. Now, on the basis of these past mercies, what did he ask God to do? (v. 4) What appeal did He make to God? (v. 5-6)
3. What did he petition God to do? (v. 7)
4. Was the psalmist optimistic that God would answer His prayer favorably? (v. 8) What did he say God would speak to His people? What about those who seek folly?
5. What did the psalmist say would be true of those who fear the Lord? (v. 9)
6. What characteristics of God are joined in perfect blend? (v. 10-11)
7. How did the psalmist describe the perfect harmony that comes to man when God turns to bless him? (v. 12-13)